

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee meeting
Held remotely over MS Teams
Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 8:45 AM – 3:00 PM
Approved TAC meeting summary**

TAC Members: Jennifer Callahan, Ryan Cunningham, Bryan Dore, Curt Gervich, Peter Isles, Neil Kamman, Steve Kramer, Margaret Murphy, Bridget O'Brien, Michele Fafette, Mario Paula, Oliver Pierson, Andrew Schroth, Jamie Shanley, Lauren Townley, Daniel Tremblay, Ryan Waldron

LCBP Staff: Mae Kate Campbell, Eric Howe, Lauren Jenness, Meg Modley, Matthew Vaughan, Erin Vennie-Vollrath

1. Updates, announcements, public comments

- Oliver: Here's a few updates from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). We received a petition requesting that the State reclassify Shadow Lake in Glover to A1 status. This petition joins similar petitions received from several other lake communities. The Department is beginning a technical and legal review of the petition, and is waiting on input from the legislature regarding the constraints around the installation of new septic systems in A1 lake watersheds. The current constraints may be a challenge for some of these watersheds. DEC anticipates that we will soon be receiving a petition to regulate the use of wake boats on public waters in Vermont. Wake boat regulation is also represented in a bill being considered by the legislature. DEC will review a petition if received and will potentially pursue a rulemaking process. DEC received a permit application from Lake Bomoseen for the use of herbicide to reduce the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil. We are beginning a review of the petition, and in the future we will hold public informational meetings. This petition is generating public interest and concern.
 - Neil: Who is submitting the wake boat petition?
 - Oliver: A group called Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. Their membership is composed of representatives from towns across Vermont.
- Neil: The general assembly is working to build the VT state budget. The clean water budget is looking healthy.
- Bryan: The new regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 was announced. His name is David Cash, he has an extensive background in Massachusetts state policy, and has worked at the intersection of the environment and power utilities, as well as in climate change and environmental justice. He joined LCBP staff and Senator Leahy at an event at the ECHO center last week.
- Mae Kate: The International Joint Commission (IJC)'s Flood Study public comment period is open for next few days.
- Eric Howe: It was great to meet the new EPA R1 administrator and deputy administrator. With the conclusion of the TAC meeting today, LCBP will be 80% through our annual budget development process. The Executive Committee will be meeting later this month to review TAC and Education and Outreach's recommendations for large grants, and the

Steering Committee will be meeting in April to finalize our budget. We are making progress on a plan for the infrastructure funding, and we are hoping some projects identified today will be eligible for that funding stream. LCBP staff are moving forward on *Opportunities for Action*, and we are loosely targeting the week of 6/6 to release the new plan. We need to complete the EPA review steps, gain Steering Committee approval, and coordinate signatures from the governors.

- Margaret: The aquatic invasive species rapid response task force met to discuss the round goby response plan. We received a presentation on the Richelieu River. There is a study starting this summer on the Hudson River to look at potential progress in that water body. We are hoping that study can get extended to Lake Champlain with potential additional funds available. The Lake Champlain state of the lake fisheries meeting, sponsored by Lake Champlain United and the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be presented on March 26th. SeaGrant will be helping with virtual meeting.
 - Meg: There will be a segment at the fisheries meeting on the canal barrier feasibility study. We are hoping to share the Army Corps report soon. The round goby task force is meeting every 2 weeks.
 - Eric: LCBP is in the process of recruiting a position focused on aquatic invasive species outreach along the Champlain Canal. We hope to onboard individual by mid-May. The posting will be up later today. We are also still hiring for Boat Launch stewards.
- Neil: The NEIWPC non-point source conference and the Lake Champlain Research Conference are upcoming events that may be of interest to TAC members. This marks the second full year that TAC and all other LCBP committees have been meeting remotely. I look forward to returning to in-person.
 - Matt: Today's discussion is a good example of something that is easier in person.

Review and approve summary of previous TAC meeting

Motion: To approve the meeting summary

By: Jenn Callahan

Second: Margaret Murphy

Vote: All in favor

2. Discuss and disclose any potential conflicts of interest for FY22 technical full proposals

- Matt: Now is a good time to identify real or perceived conflicts of interest, identified by ID number.
- Neil: For #9, I have a lot of subject matter knowledge about it. I felt awkward about scoring it because it is designed to support the State's DEC. There is no actual conflict.
 - Matt: if it's going to be a real benefit to VTDEC, that's not a reason to stay out, it's a reason to be vocal.
 - Oliver: I don't have the same subject matter expertise, but I am aware that their proposal under the Clean Water Act and state Clean Water standards would be of great value to the Lakes Program, and a staff member at VTDEC was consulted by the applicants.

- Curt: I recused myself from scoring proposal #18.
- Peter: I recused myself from scoring proposal #1, since I signed a letter of support for the project.
- Jamie: I was concerned that I had a potential conflict of interest for proposal #3, but I raised this concern during review of the pre-proposals, and we determined it was not a conflict of interest. I work with an individual on that proposal in the same agency.
- Andrew: I didn't review proposal #10, I have a conflict with some other grants that I am working on with those collaborators.
- Neil: I appreciate everyone's commitment to a fair and transparent grant review process.

3. Executive session to review and rank FY22 technical full proposals

Motion: To enter executive session

By: Jenn Callahan

Second: Margaret Murphy

Vote: all in favor

Exit executive session

- Neil: It has been 2 years since COVID happened, and it's been 3 years since I was designated TAC chair. I wanted to ask for feedback, how things are going? I would love the opportunity to hear from folks. You can provide constructive feedback through Matt. I'd especially appreciate your thoughts on how to better create connections between TAC, the Executive Committee, and the Steering Committee. I will reach out to LCBP staff to get feedback from their team as well.
- Matt: Thanks TAC members for your effort in reviewing the full proposals. I know these are a lot of work, and I can tell you all took it very seriously.